

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing communications to a network
5 access device over a communications network having a
channel supporting text messages, the method comprising the
steps of:

providing a network access device, the network access
device having a processor, a memory, and an output, the
10 memory storing code of an application, the code executable
by the processor, the network access device in
communication with the communications network;

providing an application specific message having a
network header and message content, the message content
15 including an application header and application content,
the network header identifying the application specific
message as a text-based message;

sending the application specific message to the
network access device as a text message over the channel of
20 the communications network;

receiving, by the network access device, the
application specific message;

detecting, by the network access device, the network
header of the application specific message;

identifying, by the network access device, the application specific message as a text-based message, as indicated by the network header;

detecting, by the network access device, the application header of the application specific message;

selecting, by the network access device, the application as associated with the application specific message;

providing the application content of the application specific message to the application;

interpreting, by the application, the application content of the application specific message to generate output data; and

providing, on the output of the network access device, the output data.

2. The method of claim 1, the application header of the application specific message including a sync word.

3. The method of claim 2, the step of selecting the application as associated with the application specific message including interpreting the sync word.

4. The method of claim 2, the sync word including a predetermined sequence of bits.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the network access device is a mobile phone.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the network access device is a personal digital assistant (PDA).

10 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the application is a game.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the message content in the application specific message includes game data.

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9. The method of claim 1, wherein the application is a financial application.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the message content in the application specific message includes financial data.

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11. The method of claim 1, wherein the application is a language translation program.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the message content in the application specific message includes font data.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the application specific message includes weather data.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the application specific message includes medical data.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the communications network includes a short message service (SMS) network.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the application specific message is a short message service (SMS) message.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the output data includes video data.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the output includes a display.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the output data includes audio data.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the output includes a sound processor.

21. The method of claim 1, wherein the communications
5 network includes a paging service.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein the communications network includes a wireless email service.

10 23. The method of claim 1, wherein the communications network includes an enhanced messaging service (EMS).

24. The method of claim 1, wherein the communications network includes a multimedia messaging service (MMS).

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25. A method for providing communications to a network access device over a communications network having a channel supporting text messages, the method comprising the steps of:

20 providing a network access device, the network access device having a processor, a memory, and an output, the memory storing code of an application, the code executable by the processor, the network access device in communication with the communications network;

providing an application specific message having a network header and message content, the message content including an application header and application content, the network header identifying the application specific
5 message as a text-based message;

encrypting the application specific message to produce an encrypted application specific message;

sending the encrypted application specific message to the network access device as a text message over the
10 channel of the communications network;

decrypting the encrypted application specific message, by the network access device, to produce the application specific message;

detecting, by the network access device, the network
15 header of the application specific message;

identifying, by the network access device, the application specific message as a text-based message, as indicated by the network header;

detecting, by the network access device, the
20 application header of the application specific message;

selecting, by the network access device, the application as associated with the application specific message;

providing the application content of the application specific message to the application;

interpreting, by the application, the application content of the application specific message to generate
5 output data; and

providing, on the output of the network access device, the output data.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the step of decrypting
10 the encrypted application specific message includes providing a user ID and a password.

27. An interactive communications system using a communications network having a channel supporting text
15 messages, the system comprising:

a first network access device, the first network access device having a processor, a memory, and an output, the memory storing code of an application, the code executable by the processor, the first network access
20 device in communication with the communications network;

a second network access device, the second network access device having a processor and a memory, the memory storing an application specific message having a network header and message content, the message content including

an application header and application content, the network header identifying the application specific message as a text-based message, the second network access device in communication with the communications network;

5 the second network access device configured to send the application specific message to the first network access device as a text message over the channel of the communications network;

the first network access device configured to:

- 10 (i) receive the application specific message,
 (ii) detect the network header of the application specific message,
 (iii) identify the application specific message as a text-based message, as indicated by the network header,
15 (iv) detect the application header of the application specific message,
 (v) select the application as associated with the application specific message,
20 (vi) provide the application content of the application specific message to the application,
 (vii) interpret, by the application, the application content of the application specific message to generate output data, and

(viii) provide, on the output of the network
access device, the output data.

28. The system of claim 27, wherein the first network
5 access device is a mobile phone.

29. The system of claim 28, wherein the second network
access device is a mobile phone.

10 30. The system of claim 27, wherein the first network
access device is a personal digital assistant (PDA).

31. The system of claim 27, wherein the communications
network includes a short message service (SMS).

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32. The system of claim 31 wherein the application
specific message is a short message service (SMS) message.

33. The system of claim 27, wherein the communications
20 network includes a paging service.

34. The system of claim 27, wherein the communications
network includes a wireless email service.

35. The system of claim 27, wherein the communications network includes an enhanced messaging service (EMS).

36. The system of claim 27, wherein the communications
5 network includes a multimedia messaging service (MMS).

37. A processor readable storage medium having processor readable code for programming one or more processors in a network access device to perform a method for receiving
10 communications over a communications network having a channel supporting text messages, the network access device in communication with the communications network, the network access device having a processor, a memory and an output, the memory storing application code of an
15 application, the application code executable by the one or more processors, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving an application specific message as a text message over the channel of the communications network, the application specific message having a network header and
20 message content, the message content including an application header and application content, the network header identifying the application specific message as a text-based message;

detecting, by the network access device, the network header of the application specific message;

identifying, by the network access device, the application specific message as a text-based message, as
5 indicated by the network header;

detecting, by the network access device, the application header of the application specific message;

selecting, by the network access device, the application as associated with the application specific
10 message;

providing the application content of the application specific message to the application;

interpreting, by the application, the application content of the application specific message to generate
15 output data; and

providing, on the output of the network access device, the output data.

38. The processor readable storage medium of claim 37,
20 wherein the message content in the application specific message includes music data.

39. The processor readable storage medium of claim 37,
wherein the message content in the application specific
message includes voice data.

5 40. The processor readable storage medium of claim 37,
wherein the application is a language translation program.

41. The processor readable storage medium of claim 41,
wherein the application specific message includes font
10 data.

42. The processor readable storage medium of claim 37,
wherein the application is a financial application.

15 43. The processor readable storage medium of claim 42,
wherein the application specific message includes financial
data.

44. The processor readable storage medium of claim 37,
20 wherein the application specific message includes weather
data.

45. The processor readable storage medium of claim 37,
wherein the application specific message includes medical
data.